

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 13 and 14 are independent. Claims 1, 4, 13-14, 16-18, and 21-22 are amended.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

In sections 4-25 on pages 2-10, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-8, and 10-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,978,223 to Milliken (hereinafter "Milliken") in view of Published U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0042837 to Ebata et al. (hereinafter "Ebata") and Published U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0030927 to Zuk (hereinafter "Zuk"). In sections 26-27 on pages 10-11, the Office Action rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the combination of Milliken, Ebata, and Zuk, further in view of "Hash Based IP Traceback" by Snoeren et al. (hereinafter "Snoeren").

In response, Applicant amends independent claims 1, 13, and 14 to recite the following subject matter: "storing flow identifiers computed at said respective router interface during said time window" (emphasis added). The subject matter finds support in the specification, for example, in paragraph [0024]. All of the independent claims now recite the subject matter of identifying a router interface for a single malicious packet by searching for the flow identifier of the single malicious packet in all data structures stored at the network node that contain data for an arrival time window.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Yalew at the interview held on June 9, 2008 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as

warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview. As discussed during that interview, independent claims 1, 13, and 14 are patentably distinct from Milliken. Ebata, Zuk, and Snoeren fail to remedy the deficiencies of Milliken.

Examiner Yalew indicated that the amended claims distinguished over Milliken because Milliken did not store flow identifiers computed at a respective router interface during a specific time window. Instead, as disclosed on lines 29-31 of col. 7, Milliken always computes a signature algorithm, having no restrictions related to a time window. Thus, independent claims 1, 13, and 14 are allowable.

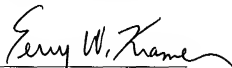
Claims 3-12 and 15-22 respectively depend upon independent claims 1 and 14. Therefore, claims 3-12 and 15-22 are also allowable at least on the basis of their respective dependencies on allowable claims 1 and 14. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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